

Bus Strike
at the
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MODERN TIMES

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Vol. III No. 14 **New Haven** December 1-14, 1972

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Demand
Election

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Pressmen Press For More



New Haven's Local 74 of the International Union of Pressmen and Assistants has called a strike against the Register Publishing Company. Members of the union have been picketing the main building on Orange and Audobon Streets for over a week. Accusations of sabotage have been levied against the union. Union representatives claim that if any machines have been broken during this past week, they have been broken by the inexperienced pressmen brought in as scabs. Police are on the scene to make sure delivery trucks can get through the entrances, some of which are blocked by the picketers.

(M-T photo by Nick Heyer)

Let's Ax The Sales Tax

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

At 7%, Connecticut's sales tax is the highest of any state in America. It hurts working people especially in these times of "controlled" wages along side of rising prices. So politicians in Hartford figure that they will win votes if they can cut the tax. Now they have that chance, but will they do anything with it?

There are two reasons why "it is now possible to deliver a tax cut before the end of the year," according to State Senate President Charles T. Alfano, Democrat of Suffield. First, Congress recently passed a "revenue-sharing" bill that will pour several millions into Connecticut's treasury. Second, it turns out that Connecticut's high taxes combined with Republican Governor Meskill's cut-backs in spending on the community colleges, new construction, social services, etc. have already produced a surplus in the state's budget.

For these reasons, the Democrats say that there is enough money coming in to Hartford to allow cutting the sales tax from 7 to 6 percent. Meskill prefers to cut it to 6½% and also help out those who play the stock market by cutting the capital gains tax from 6 to 5½%. For the politicians, the battle lines are drawn between the 6

percenters and the 6½ percenters.

Taxes Could Go Lower

But the choices politicians see are not the only choices we really have. We could have more money coming in to Hartford, which would let taxes fall further. What about these proposals:

1. Tax Yale and other private colleges formerly tax-exempt.
2. Set up an income tax which mainly hits corporation incomes of over \$50,000 per year and individual incomes of over \$15,000 per year.
3. Make the property tax progressive, like an income tax: property owners would be taxed according to their ability to pay, which would depend on the value of their property.
4. Set up a new "Severance Tax." This high tax would only be collected when a corporation employing more than 25 workers decided to leave Connecticut to avoid paying the new corporate income tax and the new progressive property tax mentioned above.

Income Taxes Again

Everyone knows how most people in Connecticut strongly opposed the plan for a state income tax. The reasons why most citizens felt that the real plan was to add

See TAXING, page 6

Meskill Cuts Community Colleges

by Dorothy London

Connecticut's Community Colleges are facing the spectre of crippling budget cuts for 1973-74. Governor Meskill requested and received a budget with a token 3% increase in expenses for 1973-74.

Since costs have gone up the Board of Community Colleges proposed cuts. The most important of those cuts are: elimination of 78 full-time teaching jobs, and an increase in teaching loads for remaining teachers.

This will be accompanied by a cut-back on all appeals procedures for untenured faculty members. Untenured faculty will have no hearing if they are fired at the end of the year. Since the Community College System is only ten years old and you need six years of teaching to get tenure, the overwhelming majority of faculty are untenured. At our local community college, South Central, only two faculty members have tenure.

Cultivated Calamity

What will the Board's cuts mean? According to a statement released by Searles Charles, Chairman of the Community College Board, it does not mean anything as yet and is no cause for alarm.

According to CEA, AFT and CSEA, it means the beginning of the end for community colleges.

Community colleges were designed for students who haven't the money to go away to school. The majority of Community College students have to work while they are in school. They are also the least advantaged students. They often lack basic skills and need extra academic help and moral support.

The elimination of 78 teaching jobs with the same enrollment will mean large classes with little individual help for students. Increased teaching loads mean even less teacher time spent with students, who need help. Cut of the appeals procedure will mean any untenured teacher can lose his or her job for any reason. Teachers may no longer be willing or able to take risks involved in fighting for new and better programs.

All Programs Suffer

If the 3% budget is passed it will mean no new equipment, no new programs and no new buildings. Several of the colleges are in old inadequate buildings. South Central Community College classes are now held in Wilbur Cross High School at night, and teachers meetings and office hours are held in a condemned armory on Orange Street. The administration meets in an elegant redecorated building on Whitney Avenue. Of course,

the Board has not recommended cuts for administrators.

At present there are 16,000 students in Connecticut's 12 Community Colleges. These colleges are the state's only open and inexpensive colleges. They are the only colleges where students who did

not excel in high school get a second chance. They are the only colleges with inexpensive evening classes for working people. To further curb Community Colleges is to further cripple people who can't afford an expensive college education.



This small portion of a high school library is SCCC's library. One of the reasons SCCC is not accredited is that it lacks the minimum library requirements of 20 volumes per student. Meskill's new budget cut did not allow any money for buying new books for the library.

(MT photo by Nick Heyer)

Teachers' Contract - A Failing Subject

Courtesy of **Advance** publication of the New Haven Federation of Teachers

November is over and the teachers of New Haven still have no contract. The Board has not moved from its demands that teachers have larger classes and heavier work loads with no increases in pay. Negotiations began last February, and the contract expired on July 1, 1972.

The NHFT recently rescinded its agreement to accept an arbitration award, an attempt to reach a compromise with the Board of Education. The Board has refused to accept the provisions of the August 31 arbitration award.

Arbitration was far from the NHFT's original demands, and NHFT members felt it was not in their interest to hold to the award. In addition, the union discovered that the budget estimate the Board had submitted to the arbitration panel was inflated by a third. On one item the Board gave a figure four times what it should have been.

The teachers union has gone through every channel short of a strike to try and reach an agreement with the Board satisfactory to New Haven teachers. The following chronology of events in negotiations (or more accurately, non-negotiations) clearly indicates that the New Haven Board of Education is willing to sacrifice quality education in this city by saving money on teacher salaries and benefits.

Fall and Winter - 1971 - NHFT gets together contract proposals from poll of teacher union membership. Package includes educational improvements, through increased support staff, improvement in sick leave and health benefits, increase in minimum from \$8000 to \$8800.

January - 1972 - NHFT tries to get negotiations started with Board of Education. NHFT proposes ground rules for setting time, place, and meeting rules for negotiation sessions. Board refuses ground rules.

February - 1972 - NHFT circulates petition urging Board to agree to a set of ground rules for negotiations. Board gives in and negotiations begin.

March - 1972 - Board proposes that teachers work more for no pay increase. They ask that limitations on class size, teaching load and on voluntary extra duties for elementary school teachers be eliminated from contract. The Board also proposed to eliminate personal days and begin the school year for teachers a week earlier.

April - 1972 - Negotiations continue. Board only agrees to add one radio station for announcement of snow days. Over 30% of NHFT proposals and contract still remain undiscussed at the bargaining table. Board rejects - out of hand - any NHFT proposal for educational improvements. Board still holds fast to regressive proposals of March.

At the same time, the Board announces a hiring freeze on teaching staff. Present vacancies will not be filled. Board strategy to reduce number of teachers becomes clear. The hiring freeze together with proposals for increased class size and increased teaching load means the Board wants the same number of classes but fewer teachers.

May - 1972 - Board asks for state mediation. Over 32% of contract is still undiscussed and Board has not moved from its

March proposal. NHFT asks state court to stop mediation and to force Board back to bargaining table. Court reserves decision and mediation proceeds.

June - 1972 - Mediation continues, with no results as Board still holds fast on March proposal for larger class size, increased teaching load and no pay increases. NHFT revises its proposals. Board still refuses and asks for arbitration.

School year ends with no new contract for New Haven teachers. Board refuses to extend old contract.

August 1972 - At end of August, arbitration panel throws out Board's proposals for increased work load. Based on erroneous cost estimates of Board, arbitration panel recommends:

increments only - first year
increments plus 4.8% - second year
improved grievance procedure

Note: increments are not pay increases. They are earned the previous year as a result of additional teaching experience.

Board rejects arbitration award.

In its last offer (August 31), the Board proposed increments this year, 3% more next year with no increments, and increased class size.

September 1972 - Teachers return to work without a contract. On first day of school, teachers vote to accept arbitration award. Board still does not change its position and refuses to give teachers increments for this year until a new contract is signed. Teachers are paid 1971-72 salaries. NHFT prepares to sue the Board for increments.

October 1972 - Board agrees to give increments and imposes its "own contract" taking bits and pieces from arbitration decision. NHFT asks for court injunction claiming that the Board's implementation of a contract undermines collective bargaining.

Board still wants 3% increase (and no increments) next year and an increase in class size and teaching load. NHFT circulates petition urging Mayor Guida (who's he?) to get involved in negotiations.

November 1972 - Teachers are getting Mad!!!!

NHFT rescinds acceptance of arbitration award.

Most recently, the NHFT rescinded its acceptance of the arbitration decision reached at the end of last August. The teachers had voted to accept the arbitration award on September 5 in an attempt to reach a compromise with the Board of Education. It was far from the NHFT's original demands, but seemed to be an avenue for a reasonable solution to the contract dispute without a strike.

The Board has refused to accept the provisions of the arbitration award. NHFT members felt that it was not in their interest to hold to an award so far from their original demands. In addition, the NHFT has discovered in the interim that the cost estimates that the Board of Education submitted to the arbitration panel were grossly in error.

The actual value of the cost package is 2/3 of what the Board told the arbitrators. On one item, the Board was off by a factor of four to one.

MOMS Honored At Dinner



Over 120 people shared a community style dinner at St. Paul's Church in mid-November to honor the New Haven Welfare Moms. The dinner followed the Moms' 56-day protest camp-in on the green to kill the new flat grant system, and was arranged by the New Haven Coalition for Peace and Justice.

Supporters and Moms were entertained by part of the Fair Haven Ministry Choir led by Bob Jones (picture at left), and the group was addressed by Beth Rawls, Fannie Crawford, Virginia Simon (2nd from left) and Mathilda Gibbs, Moms' President. State legislators Mary Griswold and Irv Stolberg were introduced.

(MT photos by Peter Irvine).

PERISCOPE On The Environment

by Tony Dominski
Modern Times Staff

WINTER OLYMPICS OR ROWING COURSES NO BARGAIN

Colorado taxpayers have refused to finance the 1976 Winter Olympics in Denver, characterized by Sen. Fred Harris (D. Okla.) as "fun and games for the rich." Community groups opposing the Olympics argued that the construction of bleachers, fences, parking lots, slopes, etc. would damage the environment and that the money would be better spent on housing, schools and hospitals. The Rowing Course controversy here in New Haven has some striking parallels to the situation in Colorado. The International Rowing Course Foundation is seeking a federal grant to promote an upper class sport so that taxpayers could pay for the recreation of the privileged classes at Yale and elsewhere. And, as in Denver, bleachers, parking lots and commercialization would destroy the environment. This is especially serious since large segments of West River Park in which the Rowing Course is to be built has just been declared a tidal wetland by the state's Department of Environmental Protection. With the problems of ecological degradation and limited public access, the New Haven Rowing Course may be a deal worse than the Winter Olympics was to have been to Denver.

TECHNOLOGY FOR THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR

Did you ever spend 3 frustrating hours getting to New York or Boston - 8 hours getting to Washington, averaging with weather and traffic conditions, about 30-40 M.P.H.? Well that's all obsolete. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology there is a plan being discussed to develop a super-fast, super-luxurious train. The train would be powered by electromagnetic coils in the guideway in which it travels, and would fly above the guideway at speeds of 300-500 M.P.H. regardless of weather. Imagine getting to New York in half an hour! It would provide an ecologically good way to travel, conserving both natural energy resources like coal and oil and precious human energy resources. Unfortunately, mass transit plans like this one will be opposed by automobile and oil lobbies and their class representatives like Meskill who can't even abide mass transit in the form of buses.

Justice for the Jumped

by a New Haven High School Student

Do student's really get jumped in New Haven's public high schools? They sure do! One student from Wilbur Cross was jumped and found the reaction of the school so discouraging that he wants to tell the story.

One Friday I was attacked by another student. After receiving the necessary immediate attention from friendly teachers, I was sent to Mr. Rubano, the assistant principal. Mr. Rubano sent me home, assuring my mother that my attacker would be suspended from school since this was his fifth fight this year.

However, when I returned to school the next Monday, Mr. Rubano informed me that I was suspended and my attacker would also be suspended but it would be an "under the table suspension." Rubano explained that this meant that he would stay out the first day and for the rest of the two weeks he could attend classes. The suspension would remain off the record. When my mother heard about this arrangement she was upset because she found the terms too arbitrary. The next day both my parents met with the principal and the regulations were explained-after a fight both participants were suspended until one would be proven innocent.

I continued to attend my classes for the next week until my teachers informed me that I could no longer go to class because I was on the suspended list. By the time I could again meet with the administration my two weeks suspension were up and both me and the other guy were allowed back to school.

You can see as I do that the school administration is not dealing with the real problems of the school. During recent weeks there have been lots of incidents, some considerably worse than mine.

Our school has a bureaucratic mountain of rules that are supposed to cover everything. But they can't cover the fact that the whole high school is sad and inhuman and the rules complicate rather than deal with high school tensions and problems.

Hospital Workers Demand Union Election

by Ray Milici
Concerned Hospital Workers

The stage was set Monday, Nov. 13, for a meeting that involved the lives of many hardworking men and women. In one corner stood the man who wanted to crush all attempts by these people to organize something they really want but haven't got. His name was up in lights as John Ohlweier out of New York lawyer circles. He represented the Hospital and Ken Grubbs, its president and damaging leader. In the other corner was Jerry Brown, a vice-president out of the ranks of

1199, National Union of Hospital and Nursing Home Employees, AFL-CIO. On his side were 15 workers of the Yale-New Haven Organizing Committee. Round One ended and the Hospital thumbed its big nose at the rights of the workers.

For the past four years while the organizing struggle went on the Hospital bosses have been shoving the labor laws down the throats of the workers. It is against the law to hold work stoppages, they said. It is against the law to strike, they said. But now the Hospital is ignoring the law, and denying the dietary workers the right to have a union election in their department.

The Hospital's lawyers claim that the dietary department is not separate from the other departments which make up the Hospital. So if the dietary workers can vote in a union election, then all employees throughout the Hospital can vote, too.

The union's position is that the dietary department is a separate unit, with its own bosses, its own rules, and its own job duties. Also, the dietary workers are the only majority who want union representation. But most of all, a Connecticut State Law allows union elections in separate departments. This has been done in other hospitals in the state.

Big Name Tag

It seems Yale-New Haven's bosses are looking for some special considerations,

probably because their name is YALE.

The Hospital can save a lot of time and money on this argument, which they are almost certain to lose. But Yale-New Haven Hospital doesn't want to save time and money. They want all the time they can get to send anti-union letters to the workers, and to hold meetings for the purpose of discouraging the workers from supporting Local 1199. As far as money is concerned, there will be no money saved when it comes to buying the best anti-union lawyers they can get. All of this obviously means the Hospital bosses are stalling. There is no doubt now that they will use every trick they can find to delay and deny the dietary workers the right to have a union election.

See DIETARY DRIVE, page 7



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE ???

Wherever it is, it will be on foot unless Meskill and the state government see the justice and necessity of a mass transit system and move in that direction. The Connecticut Company Bus Drivers' Union has been demanding better service for passengers and better working conditions for the drivers. Gengras, owner of the company, cries crocodile tears of poverty and the state government turns its head from



the public's plight. The result is seen in these photos taken by Modern Times photographers. Those on the left were taken by Cathy Quinn and those on the right by Nick Heyer. Pictured are an emergency bus for school children in need of transportation, members of the striking union on the picket line outside of the Conn. Co.'s garage on State and James Streets and a shot of the unused garage. Perhaps the most common sight in our large city now without mass transit is the empty bus stop.



'One More Blow Against Inflation'



Labor Notes

NEW CONTRACT FOR 217

For the first time in a Connecticut restaurant or hotel, Union members at the Waverly Inn in Cheshire and their families will be covered by an excellent dental plan.

Members of Local 217, Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders Union, AFL-CIO, voted 22-1 to approve a new one-year contract, retroactive to October 1, which includes company paid employee and dependent coverage under the Blue Cross "Co-Pay Dental Plan" and "Rider A." This means that most basic dental procedures for the whole family will be 80% paid.

The contract also includes wage increases averaging about 5%, paid funeral leave, language protecting waiters and waitresses from liability for customers who walk out without paying, and other improvements.

Local 217 leaders said that this dental coverage is a first for their Union, which covers most of Connecticut except the Hartford area. Dental coverage is very expensive, and is something most workers have gone without. The insurance package at the Waverly Inn already included complete hospitalization, the best surgical plan available, free prescription drugs, plus a comprehensive major medical plan.

NOT ONLY WAGE FREEZE BUT....

U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, reported that a total of 517,142 workers were illegally short changed in their pay checks during the 1972 Fiscal year. This amounted to \$102,586,647.

Most of the people who were short changed were employees who failed to receive over-time payment for their extra hours. Other violations that were reported were ones of sex discrimination against women and age discrimination against people over forty.

AFL-CIO Research Dept. also reported that approximately \$50 million was returned to the workers after intensive investigation

If you think you are being cheated out of any pay due to any reason, contact:

U.S. Dept. of Labor
Hour and Wage Division
746 Chapel Street

or call: 776-2733.

Editorial

Another Meskill Mess To Clean Up

Connecticut's Community Colleges are in danger. And in New Haven that means South Central Community College (SCCC). Governor Meskill is cramping and cutting the quality of education offered by these colleges. He is denying quality college education to thousands of people in Connecticut by forcing impossible teaching conditions on the community college faculty.

The newly elected Republican state legislature will no doubt support Meskill and the Community College Board of Trustees (largely Meskill appointees) in their plans to increase the size of classes, cut back the materials available for teaching purposes and increase courses taught per teacher. The Board also wants to eliminate grievance procedures for untenured faculty in 1972-1973.

Meskill will use his new Republican majority in the Legislature to block once again any law giving state employees (including community college teachers) the right to bargain collectively—a right which is enjoyed by people working for private business or the federal government or the city of New Haven. Without that right, community college teachers will have a hard time just keeping up the quality of education, let alone improving it against Meskill's onslaughts.

SCCC serves New Haven's average working people. The overwhelming majority of SCCC students have to work while they go to school to support themselves and often take care of their families. They cannot attend the expensive schools. SCCC's tuition is usually \$240 per year. Yale's

is over 15 times larger.

A determined, loud demand by all of us is what is needed to try to stop the Republicans and Meskill. Let's see Mayor Guida and other city mayors get busy on this. And how about making it hot for every state representative and senator: let them know we want quality education in the community colleges or else defeat at the polls. Write to them: Call them. Better yet, push organizations to build up the pressure with public statements. Arrange meetings to make the public aware. We need a strong campaign of average working people to keep open the doors of education for themselves and their children.

To Our Friends

This Thanksgiving season we truly have something to be thankful for. It isn't Nixon, it isn't unemployment, it certainly isn't the Register. It's **Modern Times**, your labor-community newspaper, where the people who do the work make the news.

If you too are thanking your lucky stars for **Modern Times**, you can express those grateful feelings. You can write stories for us, call us when you have news, work on all aspects of the paper and, of course, give money.

We who work on the paper are thankful for you, the many people of New Haven who write, produce the paper and subscribe.

Thank you.

EAST SIDE ROUND UP

Take The Bus – Leave The Driving To???

by Frank R. Annunziato

BUSSES AND NO BUSSES

With a strike of Connecticut Company drivers in effect at press time, Fair Haveners are unanimously angered by the Governor's antics.

Many people depend on the busses to go back and forth to work, go shopping, and for recreational activities. With a strike, Fair Haveners don't know how they will be able to do all these things—most important of which is getting to work.

Rumors are circulating around the neighborhood about smaller bus lines hitting the streets and soaking people by charging outrageous rates to go downtown and other points west. There is also talk of "private" independent cab services starting up during the work stoppage to make a quick and big buck.

Gengras Pockets Meskill

No one that I've talked to blames the drivers or their union, the Amalgamated Transport Union, for this state of affairs. The blame goes solidly with Governor Meskill and to what people consider his "playing games" with people's jobs and pocketbooks. People feel that the Governor does not care about people in the cities who use and need the mass transportation system. The Governor is clearly, people claim, in the hip pocket of Clayton Gengras, owner of the bus company, and the Republican Party big wigs and their



Carlene Williams, Director of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation.
(MT photo by Patti Miller)

suburban constituency.

Take Over Bus Company

What do people feel is the solution to this mess? It's simple—the state should take over the Connecticut Company and run it for the people. No one is terribly shocked by this proposal. Many people point to other states where they have relatives and friends, where the state operates the mass transportation. Sure there are problems—but the fees are relatively low and the service one hundred times better than Gengras' Covered Wagons.

People are going to be in a lot of trouble with the strike on. So far, companies around town have not made any alternative arrangements for getting their work-

ers in. What will happen if someone can not get to work? Would that person be subject to disciplinary action? Possible suspensions or firings? Loss of wages? No one seems to know—but it's almost too horrible to think about.

DIRECTOR MOVES FHNC AHEAD

CARLENE WILLIAMS has recently completed her fifth month of service as Director of the Fair Haven Neighborhood Corporation. During that time, the size of the Board of Directors has increased by eight new members and the geographical boundaries of the Corporation have been expanded to include the Cedar Hill Avenue area and the northern parts of the Fair Haven Heights.

Neighborhood elections for Board members last August 22 produced one of the highest voter turnout of any neighborhood corporation in the city. Three new staff members have been hired—dealing with youth development, education, and work with senior citizens. Programs in each of these areas have been implemented.

MARY ELLEN LORENZ in charge of dealing with senior citizens, has been working on nutritional and recreational programs at Fairmont and Ruoppolo Elderly Housing.

Ms. Williams has been a long time activist in Fair Haven, particularly at the Eastern Circle Housing Project. A resident of the neighborhood for almost twenty years, she has been involved in many tenant and educational organizations. She has consistently been one of New Haven's representatives to National Tenants Rights Conferences over the last few years.

One of the innovative projects during Ms. Williams short term of office was to participate with the price watch-dog committee of the Central Labor Council. Ms. Williams assigned two FHNC workers, ANNABELLE AUSTIN and RITA CHILL, to monitor prices at Fair Haven stores. This was the only neighborhood corporation to participate in this project and the FHNC received special commendation from CPI for doing this.

New innovative programs and more neighborhood participation have already been achieved in Ms. Williams five months of service—all indications point to even more in the future.

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MODERN TIMES is published by the American Independent Movement (AIM) as its political organ. Work on MODERN TIMES is done by volunteers, both members and non-members of AIM. The political views of AIM are given in the editorial. We encourage contributions of the New Haven community in the form of articles and letters.

MODERN TIMES is a paper to tell the story of and by the people of New Haven. We don't get that kind of news in commercial papers run for profit. There is no place else where the work and play of people who aren't rich is considered important enough to write about. There is no place else in New Haven where the problems of working women and men are told by them instead of by their bosses. There is no place else where hunger, bad housing and education, lack of health care and police harassment that people live with is told by them.

We live in the richest country in the world. But only a few people get to use most of this wealth for themselves. We must all work together to claim the wealth we all helped to create. Then there would be no need to strike for a few more crumbs, waste our resources

and labor on rockets and bombs, or waste the lives of our young men in wars like Vietnam. We would produce what we need—not what is profitable.

The American Independent Movement has been working since 1966 to get people together one to have good housing, good education, child care centers, recreation areas, decent health care and decent jobs.

STAFF: David Adams, Gary Benenson, Matt Borenstein, Ed Breuler, Jerry Cohen, Ellen Comisso, Vittorio Comisso, Lillian Dimow, Joelle Dominski, Art Fleischer, Paul Gill, Sam Goodwin, Stanley Heller, Liz Henderson, Nick Heyer, Eileen Hoffman, Peter Jackson, Lynne Karsten, Karl Lechow, Alice Mick, Ray Milici, Patti Miller, Laurie Nussdorfer, Jim Jordan, Renee Poirier, Peter O'Connell, Naomi Resnick, Ruth Resnick, Florrie Ricciuti, Bob Sherry, Henry Tamarin, Ross Thompson, Sergio Verillo, Rick Wolff, Karen Wolff

Money Talks

Don't Bite The Hand That Feeds You

Ex U.S. Officials Make It Big



by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

Clark MacGregor, the man who served as Nixon's campaign manager was named a Vice President in the Washington office of the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) a few days after the election. UAC is a "major defense contractor," which means it does a major part of its business by getting government big shots to buy from UAC. How convenient to have a government big shot (who knows just oodles of other government big shots) come over to big business to help UAC make another few millions.

Mr. MacGregor's profit-happy story is not that unusual. Consider these other examples. There was brave General James Ferguson, Commander of the Air Force Systems Command from 1966 to 1970. Now he too has joined the happy Connecticut family of UAC. And his title? Vice President.

Then we have friendly Nick Katzenbach who was President Johnson's Attorney General. In that job he was the number one prosecutor. He knew who and how and why the government was going to go after, for example, some misbehaving corporations. Now he works for the IBM corporation. You know, that little neighborhood

outfit on Whitney Avenue in New Haven. And, surprise, surprise, he is Vice President and General Counsel. That second title means that he is in charge of defending the IBM company from the government prosecutors-whose boss he used to be. How convenient.

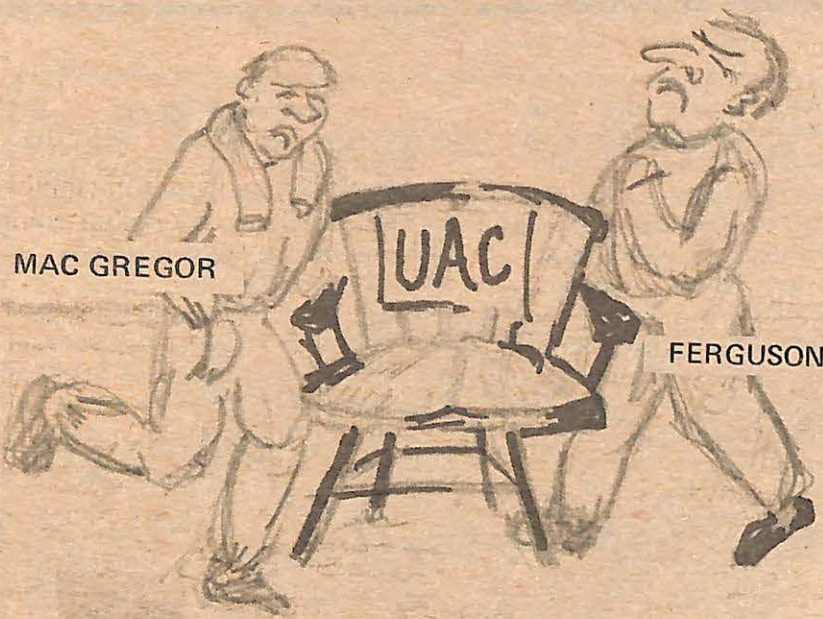
Grain of Salt

There are many examples, but I'll end with a particularly juicy one. You know him. He's an honorable, upright, patriotic public servant. He's none other than Clarence D. Palmby. Nixon made him Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, which he was from 1969 to 1972. Now we all know that the big, big deal in agriculture in 1972 was the huge sale of American wheat to the Soviet Union. And one American company that made a lot of hay off that grain was the Continental Grain Company.

Now I am sorry to have to pull this punch line on you again, but, yes, Clarence D. Palmby is now the Vice President of Continental Grain.

The moral of this sorry tale is this: in the USA, big business and big government don't play politics. They just play musical chairs.

'Don't sit down 'till the music stops!'



World Affairs

Cuba Willing To Sign Hijack Treaty

by Rick Wolff
Modern Times Staff

"Castro didn't talk about politics.

He only said that the two hijackers were locked up, that they were criminals and would be dealt with severely. He and the others were at the airport solely because they knew a plane with people in it was in dan-

ger of disaster. They were as worried as anybody else. Their relief and joy at the end, was the same as ours."

The person speaking was Frank Morkil a passenger on the Southern Airways hijacking to Cuba a few weeks ago. That hijack led many Americans to point the finger of blame at Cuba, as if it were Cuba's fault. It's an old argument: "Cuba won't sign a treaty to return and punish all hijackers. That's what encourages them."

Actually the truth is a little different. First, Cuba has imprisoned or restricted the freedom (by requiring them to help in the harvest of sugar cane) of the vast majority of over 100 hijackers who flew to Havana. Second, Cuba has repeatedly offered to work out an agreement with Washington to have both governments agree to punish and refuse sanctuary to criminals from each other's countries.

It is Washington, not Cuba, that has held things up. It is Cuba's argument that Washington is not really interested in a treaty with Cuba because Washington doesn't want to commit itself in regard to the Cuban anti-Castro exiles in Florida and elsewhere across the U.S.

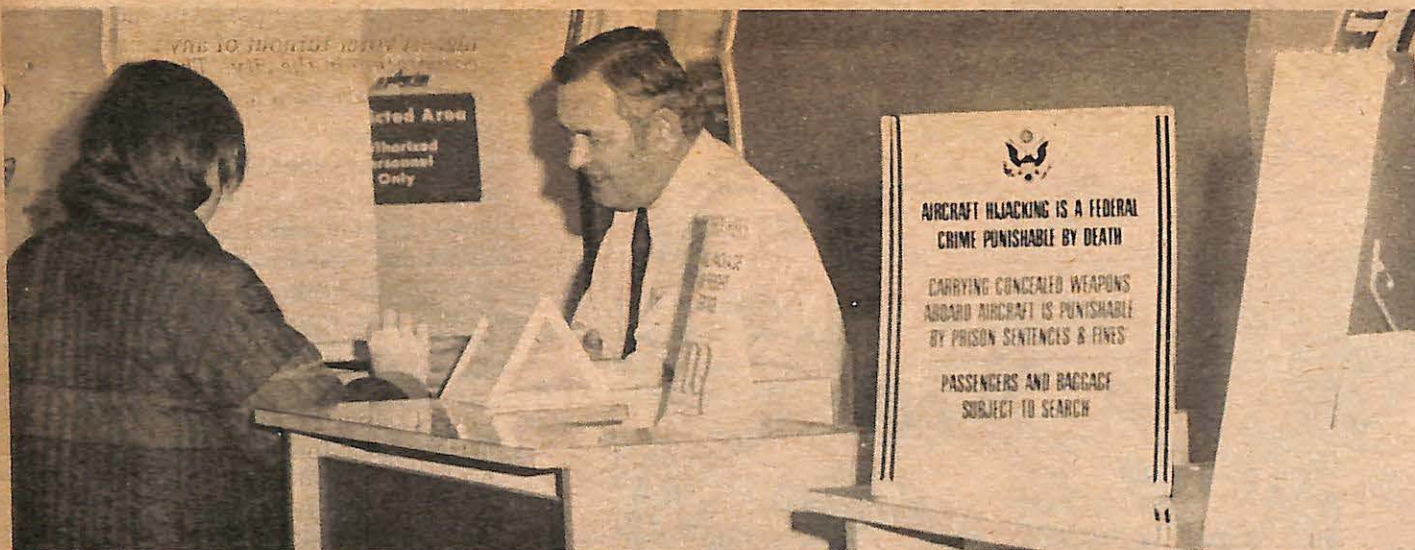
Anti-Cuba Cubans

The fact is that Cubans living in the U.S. have been carrying out illegal acts of sabotage, air-piracy and other unfriendly acts against Cuba ever since the Cuban Revolution of 1959. In many cases, the Cubans carrying out the raids leave from U.S. territory and return safely to it after their attacks.

So the deal the Cubans ask for is this: Cuba will punish U.S. or any other criminals who seek to escape by hijacking planes to Cuba. In return Cuba expects Washington to refuse sanctuary to those who commit criminal acts in and on Cuba and then flee by plane or boat to the U.S.

So the question about hijacking boils down to whether Washington will take the steps it asks others, like Cuba, to take.

The Cubans have stated their willingness to sign a treaty with the U.S. to stop hijacking. That is why Castro acted as he did at that airport in Havana a few weeks ago. The Cubans are now waiting to see whether Washington will make an agreement possible.



Signs and searching. Airports are now more careful than ever in efforts to discourage and discover hijackers. This picture, taken by Modern Times photographer Nick Heyer at the Tweed New Haven Airport, shows just one of these efforts.

Now Meskill's Got His Friends By His Side

Modern Times Capitol Reporter

The upcoming session of the General Assembly will be controlled by the Republicans (23-13 in the Senate; 94-57 in the House) for the first time in years. In that sense it will be unpredictable because the leadership has changed, the committee chairmen have changed and the Republican Governor will be able to command more votes.

One of the unknowns is how independent will the Republicans in the House and Senate be when dealing with Governor's proposals. Some of the issues which undoubtedly will receive attention by the Assembly will be property tax reform, abortion, mass transportation and reorganization of the state government.

Issues which are critical to the survival of the cities could receive rough treatment from the party of the Governor. For example, the Governor's Housing Task Force will be making recommenda-

tions to the legislature regarding new directions in housing for the state. My feeling is that those proposals will be aimed at decreasing the state dollars available for housing programs as well as restricting the use of whatever state money is appropriated.

It is entirely possible that the state's tax abatement program will be phased out. This means two things: 1) higher rents for those families living in federally subsidized rental housing units and 2) failure to complete housing developments now in the works.

Funding for the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) programs, housing, day care and anti-poverty type programs, will likely be cut or eliminated. It is no secret that the Governor does not like DCA and would like to see it abolished. He may be able to accomplish this goal with a Republican dominated state legislature. Without the DCA programs, the cities in Connecticut would lose federal monies as well as vital state programs.

Finally the reorganization of the

state government is important because it involves a proposal to take all the human service agencies in the state and combine them into one gigantic state bureaucracy called the Department of Human Services. The original idea for this was advanced by the Etherington Commission as a way of getting more efficiency in government and of saving money.

A Real Commitment is Needed

Some cynics say that the Governor wants to create this monster to cut the money now going to each agency. What this means is worse mental health care, worse prisons, no housing and no buses.

Some legislators argue that the proposal will in fact make state government more effective.

This is nonsense. The federal experience with HEW and other federal agencies state a principle: The bigger the agency the less responsive and more bureaucratic it becomes. What is really needed is a real commitment on the part of the state to solve problems and spend money where the need is shown.

Brass Tacks Union Grievances Blocked

by Mike Holodnak

You can't just depend on using the grievance procedure to stop company violations of the contract. If you do, you leave yourself open to a barrage of dirty company tricks.

For example, a company will sometimes deliberately clog up the grievance procedure by refusing to resolve grievances in the first and second step, causing them to pile up in the third step. And, if the union submits an unfair labor charge against the company, the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) will usually rule that as long as the company continues talking with the union, the unfair labor charge is groundless.

So, by clogging up the grievance procedure, the company has everything to gain and absolutely nothing to lose.

By doing so the company accomplishes at least three things.

(1) Keeping the union on the defensive produces a psychological impact on the employees who lose confidence in the union. (2) With the grievances piled up in the third step of the grievance procedure

It's hard to build a strong organized movement of working people. But this is what we must have to bring about the progressive changes America so badly needs. There are many different views on how to do this. We open this column to you, our readers, to exchange ideas and to discuss tactics and strategies. Please send us your ideas and your responses to what you read here.

the union leadership is forced to weed out all the "less important" grievances so they would not all have to be put through the very expensive arbitration hearings. (3) When enough membership rancor and bitterness has been stirred up against the union leaders and the union has become considerably weakened, then the company allows the grievance procedure to function; only this time the procedure is nothing more than a pacification program that mostly benefits the company.

Member VS Member

In the meantime the union officials are harried and kept hopping, working hard and long hours. Yet, though they do their best, the members' complaints and tempers continue to grow. Finally the exhausted union officials begin blaming the rank-and-file members, viewing them as a bunch of selfish, fickle ingrates who are "too stupid to know what they want"

After that, very few people bother to file grievances, and even less end up go-

ing into arbitration.

In a union shop, where the union leadership is knowledgeable about the labor movement and unites itself closely with the membership, all problems, big or small, are pursued relentlessly and uncompromisingly for the members' interests and this fact is made clear to the company. If the company does try to use overt or covert tactics to deliberately sabotage the grievance procedure, the union then considers this a breach of contract and will do whatever is necessary - even strike - to get the grievance machinery to function properly again.

This kind of firm and unequivocal action against the company causes the rancor and bitterness of the membership to be directed, not at the union, but at the real culprit, THE COMPANY.

This clearly makes for a good union, and there are many such unions in this country who do not have to rely on outside forces for a very dubious survival. By properly representing the rank - and - file members, a good union gains its strength from its members and can not be destroyed.

Farm Workers' Poor Conditions Pollute Lettuce

Recent release from the United Farm Workers, AFL-CIO, Hartford, Conn.

On October 8, 1969, in the King City area of California, farm workers were loading lettuce on Nunes Brothers trucks. Because they were paid on a piece-rate basis they worked hurriedly, for any pause was their economic loss. The nearest toilet was 60 minutes (round-trip) away.

On the same day, a six man crew was pulling a carrot picking machine through the fields of Bob Sanders Carrot Company. They had been working since 6:30 A.M. without toilet, handwashing or drinking water facilities. The field was their restroom. A pile of fresh human feces and toilet paper lay in the line of carrots, waiting to be picked by machine.

A Worker's Choice?

The workers have no choice. They work long hours, surrounded by acres of celery, lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, and artichokes, far from any home, gas station, or any area where crops are not growing. They cannot use the highway. If they use an irrigation ditch, crops become contaminated when irrigated. Furthermore, many employers make it clear that farm workers need no sanitary facilities and are expected to use the surrounding area.

California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA), a federally-funded legal assistance program, estimated that California growers committed more than 635,750 violations of state sanitation laws in 1969. A CRLA survey of central coast (Salinas and Santa Maria) vegetable farms found 80% to 90% in violation of state statutes.

The field sanitation laws were established to protect farm workers and consumers. State officials admit that a serious health hazard occurs when adulteration or contamination of the crop comes about by direct deposit of urine or feces, or handling with contaminated hands or gloves.

Other Health Hazards

If you can wash away filth and germs, you cannot wash off petroleum-based chemicals such as DDT, DDD, aldrin, endrin, dieldrin. These "hard" pesticides are persistent; they do not break down easily but tend to accumulate in the bodies of animals at the top of food chains. Another way of saying this is that if you eat vegetables containing DDT or other "hard" pesticides, or if you eat the flesh of any animal which has consumed DDT, the poison will remain in your body.

DDT and other closely-related pesticides (the chlorinated hydrocarbons) cause

genetic changes in fruit flies; they cause birth defects in test rats; and they have been linked to cancer of the liver and other degenerative diseases in man.

Farm workers, of course, suffer most directly. Every year newspaper headlines announce a few dramatic deaths of workers and children in the fields, due to pesticide poisoning. A survey conducted by the State of California in 1969 indicated that one out of every six farm workers had been injured by pesticides in that year--literally an epidemic rate.

What is Being Done

Every contract won by the Farm Workers Union contains a detailed health and safety clause, including a requirement that the company provide toilets, handwashing facilities, and fresh drinking water. The contract prohibits the application of pesticides when workers are in the field; it establishes a safe waiting period before workers can be sent back into the field after it is sprayed; it sets up a union health and safety committee on each ranch to enforce the safety provisions.

Every Farm Workers' Union contract totally bans DDT, other chlorinated hydrocarbons, and some other dangerous chemicals, such as the herbicides 2, 4 D and 2, 4, 5 T. These provisions protect both workers and consumers.

The farm workers are boycotting iceberg lettuce--the head variety from the southwest. Support for the lettuce boycott is support for the safe use of pesticides, and for sanitation in the fields. Please do not eat lettuce until the farm workers win.

Please sign the pledge on page 7 and send it to the farm workers as a symbol of support. For further information, contact: United Farm Workers, 57 Farmington Avenue, Hartford, Conn. Telephone 527-7191.



A Taxing Situation Continues.....continued from page 1

an income tax to the sales tax. They saw the talk about income tax instead of a sales tax as just a sweetener for the bitter pill. They expected that even if the sales tax went down for a bit, very soon the combined take of both taxes would leave less in people's pockets. Learning from the past, people did not want to trust the Hartford Legislature with any new taxing powers.

On top of this, many big Connecticut corporations paid for advertising against the income tax for their own, profit-minded reasons. The labor movement, which sincerely proposed income instead of sales tax on the grounds of greater fairness to working people, just could not overcome

the doubts of the people (reinforced by the publicity barrage of the big companies). Liberals supporting the income tax had the same problem.

An income tax that really exempted average working people and took its bite from the individuals and corporations most able to pay would allow the Connecticut sales tax to come down way below even 6 percent. For average wage earners, it would definitely not take away in income tax what it gave back in a lower sales tax. So workers might support it.

If we added a progressive property tax to the tax package, we might expect even more support. The idea here is simple. Two people each buy homes costing \$22,000.

The first person is rich; he doesn't need a mortgage; it's a second house. The second person scraped together the down payment after years of saving. Both people now pay the same property tax (mill rate). We can change that. We can tax property according to people's incomes. That too would bring in money to Hartford, thereby allowing further cuts in the sales tax.

These proposals go further than the politicians talk these days. But our need for tax relief for working people goes further than the cut from a 7 to 6 percent sales tax that we are supposed to be grateful for. And we can get more relief--if politicians in Hartford act.

PROBLEMS IN THE UNEMPLOYMENT OFFICE

Hard Feelings Block Rights

This is the second part of a two part story on unemployment compensation. The writer is a former worker at the unemployment office in New Haven. In our last issue she wrote about the conditions which forced her to quit that job and the efforts of her ex-manager to keep her from receiving unemployment compensation.

In this article she discusses the treatment she saw other unemployed people receive at the Unemployment Compensation Division.

Fortunately, I was assisted by Legal Aid and people on the staff of the New Haven Unemployment office in my fight to get the benefits I deserved. Because of the hatred of the staff for my former manager they came to my aid and helped me make the system work.

However, what happens to people who don't have inside help? Where can they turn to? They can no longer turn to Legal Aid. Because of drastic budget cuts, the only cases they can now take are tenant eviction cases. It's a damn sin when people who are supposed to help you, the Unemployment staff, will not, and Legal Aid cannot.

Many people who have dealt with the unemployment system, without any help, say they are treated like objects. I believe the staff treats some people more like savages.

Prejudice Obvious

According to the procedural manual there is not to be any prejudice shown. This is just not true. I overheard a case worker being told, informally, not to push: blacks (they are lazy), those over 55 (not much you can do for them), and Puerto Rican people (they are ignorant). However, young people, especially during the summer months, are assumed to be looking for a free ride and, thus, given a hard time.

Under current regulations you are forced to accept a job paying a great deal less than you were making. If you refuse, you will be disqualified from receiving benefits. For example, if you were earning \$120 a week you can be forced into taking a job that pays only \$80 a week. So people who have worked their way up in seniority are forced to start at the bottom again.

New staff people, for the first month, are idealistic. They help applicants file their claims and explain their rights to them. After about a month they begin to change.

Gradually they acquire the suspicious attitudes of the manager.

Such attitudes were shown by most of the office workers when the office was informed by the Federal Government that the cuts, made locally, in the Emergency Compensation (E.C.) Program would have to be restored. The staff was quite bitter when the Federal Government funded the E.C. program. As one staffer phrased it: "As long as we keep paying them, these people will never go to work. I wouldn't mind sitting for two hours and collecting two weeks pay for doing nothing." What a

Dietary Workers Push For Union

Continued from page 3

In a letter to all employees, Charles B. Womer, Hospital Director, said, "The union took the position that the election unit should be limited to employees in the Dietary Department." This was done to leave the impression that the union is denying the rest of the workers the right to a union election. But, in actuality, the Hospital wants everyone to vote because they know the chances of the union winning throughout the Hospital are slim, and that will deny every worker union representation.

Local 1199 wants every hospital worker in the union, but first things first. Let's win in the Dietary Department, build a base for the union, and then branch out into the other Hospital departments to win the elections, not to lose them. A dietary worker made that point very clear last week when she said, "When you build a house you start with the foundation. The Dietary Department is the foundation."

The dietary workers are on the road to victory after many years of trial and error. But they have a long road to travel. There is no doubt the Hospital will be putting up as many road blocks as it can. The dietary workers are not planning to sit back and let that happen.

On Friday, November 17, 55 off-duty dietary workers sat in the Memorial Unit Cafeteria. Mr. Grubbs got to the cafeteria quickly. He was told by a number of workers to stop stalling. "We want the union. We want a quick and speedy election." One worker demanded that Womer, the Hospital Director, be there. "We are sick of seeing you, we want to see Womer. You're just a messenger boy."

Grubbs kept his head hung low. He got the message. The workers are no longer afraid of the boss. They will not stand for any stalling. But most of all the workers demonstrated their solidarity and determination to win this struggle. That will give the bosses a lot to think about in the weeks ahead.

The first formal Labor Board hearings are scheduled for December 4th and 5th. At those hearings, arguments will be presented by the union and the hospital, on who should be allowed to vote in the election. The Labor Board will probably take a month or even longer to make a decision and then order an election. A victory at Yale-New Haven Hospital will not only be a victory for hospital workers, but for organized labor in general.

And Yet Another To Come Down



Soon to be a memory is the New Haven Arena. Overshadowed by the new, big, more-expensive-to-get-into Coliseum, the 45 year old building, a center for concerts, recreation and sporting events, will be replaced by, what else?, a parking lot. Efforts to save the fancy facade are being made. (MT photo by Tony Della-Ventura)

rotten attitude. These people were only collecting what they had put into the system.

Such attitudes are the result, in part, of the staff's hatred for the job with its high pressure atmosphere. They want out but for various reasons, mainly fear, are not in a position to quit. Transferring to another agency is impossible since the manager blocks all transfers, some for very ridiculous reasons. So they remain and after a while show their dissatisfaction by harassing and humiliating the people they are supposed to help.

I pledge to the United Farm Workers I will not eat iceberg (head) lettuce. I will tell my friends about the boycott.

— Please contact me about what else I can do to help.

— I would like to arrange a speaker or film for our group (church, class, union, neighbors).

— I enclose a donation.

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____

Down Along The Quinnipiac...



Down along the Quinnipiac runs Front Street. Scheduled for renewal three years ago, Front Street is now far cry from the housing projects and park which were rumored to be in the planning. Landlords have allowed their property on Front Street to deteriorate to the point where they have had to board up some of the houses. Children playing along Front Street are endangered by the huge trucks that careen up the street daily. Perhaps though, it's a matter of time, because some of the businesses are moving away. Perhaps this boy will some day have a decent playground in which he can play.

On The Job

This is an interview with Pam Hinman, an optometrist's assistant. Ms. Hinman works for Dr. Wohlert, a New Haven optometrist.

"I took this job because I was bored I was getting unemployment, but I wanted to work. I thought it was a receptionist's job and I took it because jobs are hard to find in the New Haven area. I was really surprised when I found out that Dr. Wohlert was going to teach me about eye examinations and glasses and that I wasn't going to be a receptionist, but an assistant.

"I feel that for once in my life, I'm doing something even if it's a minor role, it's beneficial to people.

"I'm working with a person who cares about other people, and who's not just interested in making a quick buck."

What kinds of things does an Optometrist's assistant do?

I answer the phone, and make appointments and act in part as a receptionist. When the patients come in I fill out a card, introduce them to the Doctor, and show them into the examining room. After they get examined I show them all the eyeglasses and help them pick out a pair that suits their face. A lot of people just pick what's popular and the popular models can look horrendous on some peoples' faces. Some people feel sort of shy in a doctor's office and they need someone to stand by them and talk to them. I do that too.

After the patients have been examined I take their payments or fill out their wel-



Collage using the 'Connoisseurs' by H. Roumier

fare cards for them. Sometimes patients come in with broken glasses and I repair them. I also put glasses together—we get them in parts. Soon I'm going to learn how to fit glasses to people's heads with a

heat treatment.

Many Children's Eyes Untested

When I have a welfare patient in I check the card to see if there are children in the family. If so, I try to get them appoint-

ments too. Schools only test children's eyes for distance vision, but a lot of children have other troubles with their eyes. They often have trouble reading books and teachers don't pick it up and just think they're bad readers. I'd say 30% of the children we tested need glasses for reading. Children after the age of five should have an examination every two years, but many don't.

Wealthier parents usually bring their children in every year. Since they could always pay for doctors and probably got used to going regularly as children, they automatically bring their children in. People who didn't come to the eye-doctor as children often don't bring their children in.

A Good Job At Last

I am really glad I saw the ad for this job. I like it. When I go to work it makes me feel like more of a person. I've been a secretary all my life and I never liked it. On this job, I feel like I'm accomplishing something. I'm learning a lot. Sometimes secretaries are treated like servants. At my last job, for \$50.00 take-home pay, they had me typing, running back and forth for coffee and cleaning the toilets. My boss was always looking up my dress. My boss once told me that he hired me for that job because I had nice legs. I was really sick when I heard that. Because I really needed the money, I kept that job for eight months. Finally, I couldn't take it anymore, and I quit.

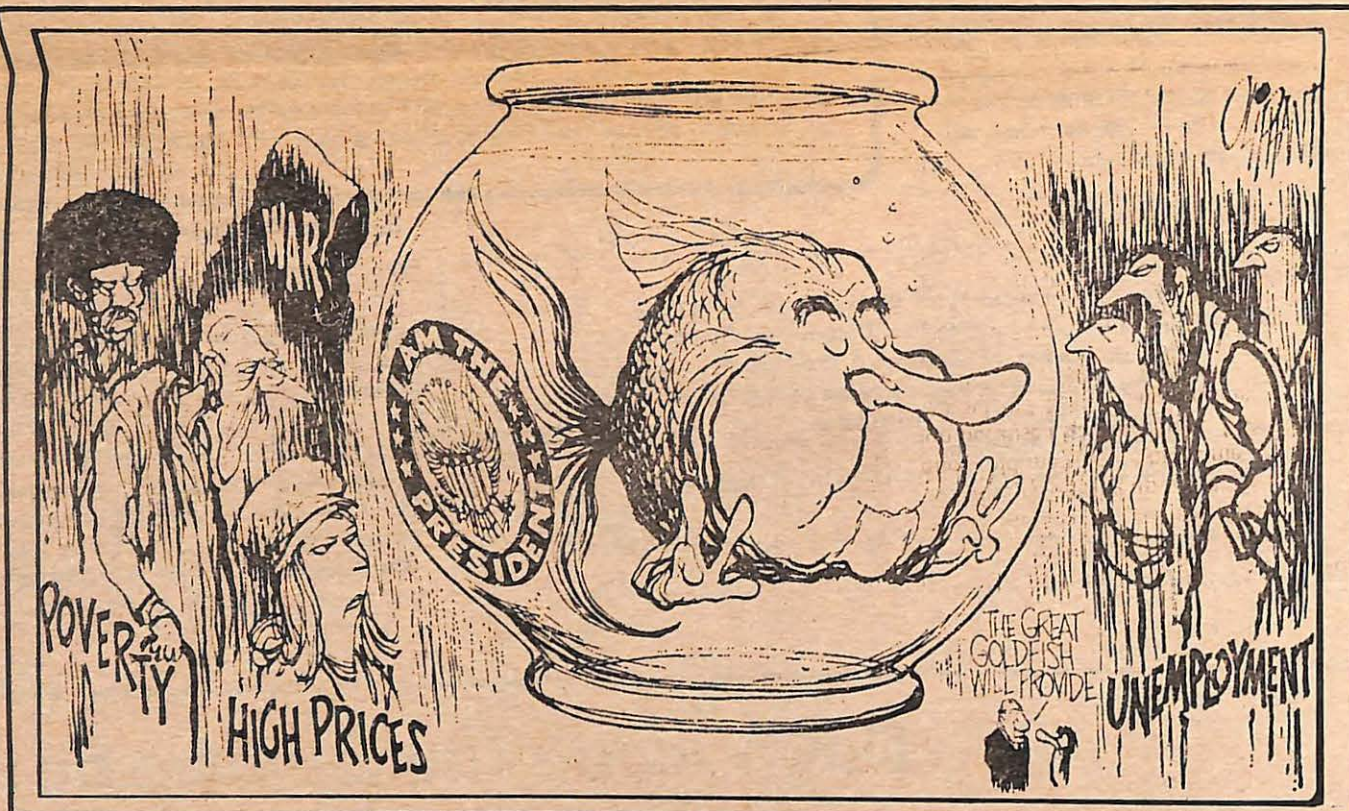
Now I'm working for a person who treats me like an individual and knows I'm capable of more than getting his coffee. I look forward to going to work every day, instead of dreading it. I'm not afraid to wear a skirt to work anymore.

I WAS RUNNING

I was running as fast as I could, saying to myself that yes, I believed in God, and I loved him, but I was busy running now, and he tripped me, and I fell flat on my face, and he said, "Hey, you, I want your attention for a minute," and I said, "O.K., you've got it now. What do you want?"

No answer yet.

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